



The Whitman Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

May 2005

# SPECTRUM



The Voice of the Humble Electron

Founded 1962

---

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** This is **The Bruce N1X** – Three Whitman Club members, **Bob Burns K1RB**, **Jim O'Rourke WG1L** and **Neal Harrington KB1LXL** helped provide communication support during last month's Boston Marathon. The Fox Hunters were active as usual and several members were seen at the Hosstraders Flea Market where **Paul Burbine N1VTI** offered his services as a Volunteer Examiner during Saturday's testing session and **Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN** set up and operated Hosstraders Radio 103.1 FM on your dial. The Whitman and Taunton RACES volunteers were active - participating in Radiogram training by taking messages going to the local Emergency Management Agencies Directors. **Bob Burns K1RB** reported that they are setting up a Technician Class study group in Whitman for interested Town of Whitman volunteers.

It's hard to believe but Saftler's Flea Market is fast approaching and will be held on the Sunday and Monday of Memorial Day weekend. I hope to see you at some point at Saftler's where we will have a Club Station in Operation and will be monitoring the Whitman REPEATER for check-ins. Plan to stop by and socialize and at the same time drop off some goodies to be sold at the club table.

Dues are past due but it was agreed at the last meeting that anyone who attends the June meeting and pays their dues at that time will be given a ballot and will be eligible to vote in the election of Officers. Come on down and help with the planning for Field Day 2005.

---

**NEW MEMBER:** **Phil McNamara N1XTB** lives in Middleboro with his wife **Clare** and his two-year-old harmonic **Philip**. His shack is powered by a solar power system. **Phil N1XTB** is active with Air Force MARS and Emergency Communication with the EMA section of ARES. **Phil N1XTB** has completed the ARRL Emergency Communication Levels I, II & III courses, the IS-195 Basic Incident Command course, the IS-700 – National Incident Management course and the Red Cross – Introduction to Disaster Services, Shelter Operation and Disaster Assessment ITS training. **Phil N1XTB** is a RACES staff member for the Town of Bridgewater.



**Phil McNamara N1XTB**

---

**HE'S BAAACK:** The club members welcomed former member **Gil Follett W1GMF** who rejoined the club this year.

**Gil W1GMF** lives in Abington with his wife **Judi** and his radioactive interests include PACKET radio and handling National Traffic System Messages, Fox Hunting and providing communication support for local YMCA road races. **Gil W1GMF** is a RACES volunteer for the Town of Bridgewater.



**Gil Follett W1GMF**

## SECRETARY'S NOTES OF THE MEETING OF May 4, 2005 de KB1CYV

**OPENING:** The members started gathering at the Whitman Public Library, Whitman, MA around 6:15 P.M. **President Bruce NI1X** opened the meeting with a roll call at 6:35 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE:** Twenty-two members / guests were present, including the four elected officers and one director. A quorum was present.

**N1VTI Paul Burbine**  
**KB1CYV Roy Logan**  
**K1MRH Barbara Rice**  
**W1SM Al Drollett**  
**N1SON Bill Tracy**  
**KA1PJX Don Keene**  
**NI1X Bruce Hayden**  
**N1XTB Phil McNamara**

**K1XRB Peter George**  
**W1GMF Gil Follett**  
**K1REL Bob Loring**  
**KB1KFF Jim Kenworthy**  
**N1NTZ Ed Meehan**  
**WG1L Jim O'Rourke**  
**N1SOM Jeff Tracy**

**N1ZZN Jeff Lehmann**  
**K1WGU Bob Bass**  
**N1PXX Ron Smith**  
**W1MMM Bob Sikes**  
**KB1ETW Jim Halpin**  
**KC1FZ George Davis**  
**N1FRE Bill Hayden**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report for April was read by **Jeff N1SOM**. **Jim KB1KFF** made a motion seconded by **Paul N1VTI** that the treasurer's report be accepted as read. The motion was approved.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** A motion was made by **Jim KB1KFF**, seconded by **Paul N1VTI**, that the secretary's report be accepted as published in the April Newsletter. The motion was approved.

**HEALTH AND WELFARE:** **Walter K1BZD** continues his recuperation.

**OLD BUSINESS:** **Bill N1FRE** reported that he received verbal confirmation of approval for the Spring Flea Market at Saftler's. **Bruce NI1X** will be requesting permission to hold Field Day at Ames Nowell State Park. **Paul N1VTI** will be operating from his QTH and can accommodate two additional stations. A motion was made by **Bruce NI1X** seconded by **Ed N1NTZ** and approved by the group that **Jeff N1ZZN** proceed with obtaining a new higher speed **WA1NPO** web site.

**NEW BUSINESS:** A motion was made by **Ed N1NTZ** seconded by **Roy KB1CYV** that **N1XTB Phil McNamara** be accepted as a new member and a motion was made by **Ed N1NTZ** seconded by **Paul N1VTI** that **W1GMF Gil Follett** be accepted as a reinstated former member. Both motions were approved. Welcome to the WARC, guys! As there were no further nominations for the upcoming annual election, **Jeff N1SOM** will precede with distribution of ballots. **Bob W1MMM** reported that a CW 5 WPM practice NET is held most Tuesdays & Thursdays at 8:00 PM on the Paxton Repeater (146.970 MHz PL 114.8). **Jim WG1L** stated his willingness to have a CW QSO with anyone wishing to improve his or her skills.

**TECHNICAL TOPICS:** **Phil McNamara N1XTB** gave an informative presentation on emergency power, alternative energy and solar power for ham radio.

**NET CONTROLS:** 5/1 Roy KB1CYV 5/8 Bill N1FRE 5/15 Bruce NI1X 5/22 Jeff N1SOM  
5/29 Paul N1VTI

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to close was made by **Ed N1NTZ** seconded by **Jeff N1ZZN** and **President Bruce NI1X** closed the meeting at 7:55 P.M.

## CARLOS WHARTON WP4US TAKES HIS ECHOLINK PRESENTATION ON TOUR



ECHOLINK PRESENTATION  
AT THE MASSASOIT CLUB IN APRIL



TOUR GROUP AT THE TOWN  
OF BRIDGEWATER EOC

**Carlos Wharton WP4US** was invited to give his Echolink presentation at the Massasoit Club April meeting. This was the second practice run for a presentation **Carlos WP4US** will be giving in July in the Dominican Republic at an Echolink conference. There were over 20 Massasoit Club members and guests present. Several Whitman Club members who missed the presentation at the Whitman Club March meeting were in attendance. Listening to the questions asked and the answers given was very interesting and I am sure everyone present learned something new about Echolink. The meeting lasted until 10 pm. Handouts of the slide presentation are available upon request – see **Bruce NI1X** or **Carlos WP4US**.

After the Echolink presentation, the first time guests - **Carlos WP4US**, **Don KA1PJX** and **Jim WG1L** were given a tour of the Town of Bridgewater - Emergency Operations Center (EOC) by **Carl Aveni N1FY** – the President of the Massasoit Club. Shown in the group photo taken at the Town of Bridgewater EOC by “**The Bruce**” **NI1X** are L. to R. **Don Keene KA1PJX**, **Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN**, **Phil McNamara N1XTB**, **Jim O’Rourke WG1L**, **Loren Pimentel N1IQI**, **Gil Follett W1GMF**, **Carlos Wharton WP4US**, **George Davis KC1FZ** and **Carl Aveni N1FY**.

---

### WHITMAN AMATEUR RADIO PUBLIC SERVICE NET (WARPSN)

**Walter Dolson K1BZD** is our traffic manager and has been instrumental in teaching NET Control and traffic handling to the members of the Whitman Amateur Radio Club by promoting the **WARPSN**. **Walter K1BZD** is currently recuperating from recent medical problems and we wish him well.



Walter Dolson K1BZD

This (**WARPSN**) NET meets every Sunday morning at 8:30 A.M. on the Whitman REPEATER 147.225 MHz PL 67. Come join in and share your amateur radio related activities with the other area HAMS and short-wave listeners as well.

In April we had four (4) sessions with an average of 10 area HAMS checking in each week and 9 messages were sent.



## 109 th RUNNING OF THE BOSTON MARATHON:

The local HAMS that were stationed at the Athlete's Village and parking lots in Hopkinton, Mass. are shown just before the start of the 109<sup>th</sup> running of the Boston Marathon. They include L. to R. **Bob "Whitey" Doherty K1VV**, **Jim O'Rourke WG1L**, **Don Tanguay N1DT**, **Pi Pugh K1RV**, **J.C. Cunningham W1AI**, **Bob Burns K1RB**, **Henry Brown K1WCC** and three other HAMS. The young one second from the end is **Henry's K1WCC** nephew **Brian**.



Area HAMS at the Hopkinton Starting Line

**Bob Burns K1RB** reports that six local amateurs were off to the 109th BAA Boston Marathon at 4:10 AM, Monday morning, April 18th, 2005. **Bob K1RB**, was stationed at the Athlete's Village Stage, a position he has had for several years; **Jim WG1L**, was at the Athlete's Village Information Booth, and **Pi K1RV** was the team leader at the command post at the Athlete's Village. **Bob K1VV**, was assigned to the Medical Tent and **Don, N1DT** was in front of the High School (Athlete's Village) coordinating runner's buses. "**JC**" **W1AI**, was assigned to the Hopkinton State Park and later to the down course security team.

This was **K1RB's** 20th year as part of the Boston Marathon Media and Volunteer Group. It was **K1RV's**, 10th year. Prior to the Marathon on Monday, **Bob K1RB** and **Pi K1RV** attended the BAA Breakfast of Champions at the Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston on Saturday. They talked to **Tom Kelley**, the late **Johnny Kelley's** nephew and a former school administrator at Whitman-Hanson Regional High school. **Tom** is now Superintendent of Schools in Marshfield. **Bob K1RB** and **Pi K1RV** also met with **Uta Pipping**, a 3 time Boston Marathon Women's winner; **Jacqueline Gareau**, the "real" 1980 women's winner -- remember the **Rosie Ruiz** incident --; and they met with **Jack Fleming** and **Gloria Ratti** of the BAA. The local crew arrived home about 2 PM.

**Neal Harrington KB1LXL** reports that he also worked the Boston Marathon Race and that it was a real experience. **Neal KB1LXL** was assigned on a school bus with a medical team to assist runners that were unable to finish the race due to minor injuries and exhaust, blisters or cramped muscles. They were positioned at Station #8 at Mile Marker 13 in Wellesley Center at the intersection of Cross Street and RT.135. The runners were attended to by American Red Cross workers and then placed in the bus and transported to the medical tent at Copley Square. On the bus, there was a nurse and a paramedic, and **Neal KB1LXL** who is an E.M.T. His duties were to operate the Ham Radio and inform Net Control as to what was going on at their station and they would be informed as to when they were to transport the runners they had on board the bus and also if they were needed to help other medical teams. They transported 32 runners. They also had bottled water and Gatorade for them. Finally **Neal KB1LXL** reports that It was a great first time learning experience and that he really enjoyed it.

## RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICE - (RACES) – UPDATE

The Mass. Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) - RACES crew hold several Radiogram training sessions on the first Monday of the month that includes a session at 7:30 pm on the Taunton 2-Meter (147.135MHz PL 67) REPEATER and at 8:00 pm on the Norwell 2-Meter (145.250 MHz PL 77) REPEATER. Everyone is encouraged to listen in and practice copying the four messages being sent to the Directors of Emergency Management Agencies in the local Cities and Towns.

In Taunton - the RACES volunteers participating in the Radiogram training session in May are shown in the photo at the Taunton Emergency Operations Center following the session. Shown L. to R. are **Bruce Hayden N1IX**, **Don Burke KB1LXH**, **Barbara Foster KB1KZX**, **Steven Foster KB1KZW**, **Carlos Wharton WP4US**, **Bob Barbour K1BAR**, and **Rudy Burer KB1LXI**.



After taking the messages, a lessons learned review session is usually held that goes over the way the messages were sent using the National Traffic System (NTS) format. In a real emergency situation, with other activities taking place in a fully staffed Emergency Operations Center, earphones for each separate radio would be required.

In Whitman – **Bill N1FRE** took the four May messages for the Director of the Town of Whitman - Emergency Management Agency from his home QTH. **Bob Burns K1RB** reports that four volunteers in the Town of Whitman are interested in getting their Amateur Radio License and that he has secured the book “Now You’re Talking” for the students and that they have started a study class.

---

### FIELD DAY 2005

At the May meeting – a preliminary poll of the members present concerning Field Day 2005 availability resulted in three members making a commitment to stay overnight with others offering to participate during part of the day Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> and / or Sunday June 26. Based on that interest and level of commitment, the decision was made to go ahead and reserve the use of the Ames Nowell State Park in Abington for Field Day 2005. Come to the June meeting and help with the planning. We will need additional rigs and antennas along with help installing antenna, setting up tents and cooking.

**Paul Burbine N1VTI** will be holding Field Day 2005 at his home QTH and all members are invited to attend. **Paul N1VTI** reports that he will have the house and garage all to himself that weekend and that he can support one or two more Base Stations.

---

### SKYWARN TRAINING SATURDAY JUNE 11, 2005 12 Noon – 3:00 pm

**Carl Aveni N1FY** has made arrangements to hold the next area Skywarn training / refresher course at the Brockton VA Hospital in Brockton, MA. The Brockton VA is on Belmont Street at the intersection of Rt. 24. The Skywarn training will be at building #5, room C210 (second floor conference room). There will be signs posted all over the grounds to direct people. Talk in will be on the Bridgewater REPEATER 147.180 MHz PL 67.



## HOSSTRADERS TAILGATE SWAPFEST - MAY 6 & 7, 2005

**Paul Burbine N1VTI** set up a table at Hosstraders again this year along side **Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN** and the crew from the USS Salem. **Paul N1VTI** also volunteered his services as a Volunteer Examiner on Saturday and reported that 36 tests were given and 18 people received a new license or upgrade. The weather was great on Friday. **Paul N1VTI** is seen with **Paul Swartz N1FWD** who stopped by to socialize.



**Paul Swartz N1FWD & Paul Burbine N1VTI**



**Jed Barton N1JBC & Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN**

**Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN** set up his Hosstraders Radio Station 103.1 FM on your dial and broadcast music and was selling goodies at the same time. **Jeff N1ZZN** is seen with his friend **Jed Barton N1JBC**. The weather on Saturday was rainy as usual. It would not be Hosstraders if it did not rain.

It was a great day Friday and **John Coombs WQ1L**, **Ed Meehan N1NTZ** and **The Bruce N11X** spent hours walking around the Hopkinton State Fair Grounds looking for bargains. Of course **John WQ1L** was doing all the negotiating. **Ed N1NTZ** found a G5RV while **The Bruce N11X** found a much needed replacement battery for his handheld.

Later in the day **Ed N1NTZ** and **John WQ1L** were seen sampling one of the famous Angelo's sausages - the ones with the taste that lingers - while **The Bruce N11X** and **Paul N1VTI** were being kinder to their stomachs by sampling the famous Hosstraders Apple Crisp with Ice Cream.



**John WQ1L, Ed N1NTZ & The Bruce N11X**



**The Bruce N11X**

**The Bruce N11X** is shown taking a stationary bike for a test run at Hosstraders but with no generator attached and no cup holder - not good enough. If all goes as planned, **The Bruce N11X** will soon be heard Stationary Bicycle Mobile from his home QTH - no more getting up early to hit the gym three times a week.

**The Bruce N11X** picked up a Philco radio that glows in the dark at the latest Antique Radio Flea Market.



**Antique Radio**

## LOGAN AIRPORT - DEPT. OF HOMELAND SECURITY DRILL – OPERATION ATLAS

**Carl Aveni N1FY** reported that the Logan Airport drill “Operation Atlas” has been rescheduled for Saturday June 4, 2005 and is scheduled to run from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm (although it is possible it may end earlier).

The Bridgewater Emergency Operations Center will be activated as the Eastern Mass. ARES NET Command Post during the duration of the exercise. **Phil McNamara N1XTB** will be coordinating the Net Control schedule with 2 hour shifts. The Net Control will be handled in the same manner as was done during the week of the DNC, with periodic roll calls as well as sending and receiving NTS messages. There will be a lot of scrutiny of how the various players handle this exercise and everyone participating will be expected to maintain the very high level of professionalism showed during the DNC. Contact **Phil N1XTB** to volunteer your time. **Phil N1XTB** can be reached at e-mail [n1xtb@powersrvcs.com](mailto:n1xtb@powersrvcs.com)

---

## CAMP YOMECHAS 5K ROAD RACE JUNE 4, 2005

The area HAMS have been asked to cover the Camp Yomechas 5K Road Race on the same day as the Logan Airport drill “Operation Atlas”. **Gil Follett W1GMF** will be coordinating the HAM volunteers. HAMS will be expected to gather at Camp Yomechas at 8:30 am for a 9:00 am race. **Gil W1GMF** can be reached at e-mail [w1gmf@amsat.com](mailto:w1gmf@amsat.com)

---

**QSL MANAGER:** **WA1NPO** received requests for three Plymouth Plantation Special Event Certificates from 1998, 2000 & 2003 and two QSL card requests for contacts made from Saffler’s parking lot, one from 2003 and one from 2004. **The Bruce NI1X** volunteered to respond to the requests.

---

## KID’S DAY – Saturday June 18, 2005

The purpose of Kid’s Day is to encourage young people to enjoy amateur radio. The object is to give young people on-the-air experience so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. Call CQ Kid’s Day and exchange name, age, location and favorite color.

---

## FOX HUNTNG – EVERY SATURDAY MORNING 10 AM TO NOON

**George Davis KC1FZ**, the Fox for the day, was hiding at the Pembroke Herring run on Rt 14, on Saturday morning - May 14, 2005.

**George KC1FZ** was transmitting on 146.565 MHz for 30 seconds every 5 minutes between 10 am and noon. **The Bruce NI1X** was the first to find the Fox with **Roy Logan KB1CYV** not far behind. Come on out or listen in at 10 am on any Saturday morning and let the Fox Hunters know, on the Bridgewater REPEATER 147.180 MHz, if you can hear the Fox in your back yard. Shown in the photo taken at the Herring run are L. to R. **The Bruce NI1X, Roy KB1CYV & George KC1FZ.**



**The Fox Hunters**

**Notes taken by “The Bruce” N11X at the May meeting**



**Phil McNamara N1XTB**



**Solar Power presentation at May meeting**

**GUEST SPEAKER:** not only did **Phil McNamara N1XTB** give a fascinating presentation on Emergency Power, Alternate Energy and Solar Power for HAMS at the May meeting, he also joined the club at the same time.

**Phil N1XTB** discussed why amateur Radio Operators should have Alternate Energy installations at the home QTH along with what priority loads could be served by the emergency power during a blackout and the different fuel sources available for the standby power.

**Phil N1XTB** then got into the technical details of AC and DC generators, Solar panels, charge controllers, battery types and inverters. **Phil N1XTB** reviewed the topic of load management and pointed out that you start your emergency backup power system design by first determining the priority loads the system must serve and for how long. **Phil N1XTB** provided a list of “Reference Internet Links” for the members to continue their introduction and education into alternate energy systems through home study. They included:

- Home Power Magazine <http://www.homepower.com/>
- Solartron Technologies <http://www.partsonsale.com/slrelecar.html>
- Real Goods (acquired – Jade Mountain) <http://www.realgoods.com/>
- Homepower’s Magazine Vendor / Advertiser Link list  
<http://www.homepower.com/links/advertisers.cfm>
- Solar amateur Radio – FARA Field Day  
[http://www.ema.arrl.org/mod/gallery/view\\_album.php?set\\_albumName=album02](http://www.ema.arrl.org/mod/gallery/view_album.php?set_albumName=album02)

**Phil N1XTB** brought in a portable battery box complete with numerous universal Anderson Power Pole connectors that could be used for Field Day or Special Events. **Phil N1XTB** also showed some very energy efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) lamps for emergency use.

**Phil N1XTB** handed out several articles that went into detail about Inverter Technology, Solar Module Technology, Solar Power and Ham Radio (stressing renewable energy) and safety. Handouts of the presentation are available upon request – see **Bruce N11X** or **Phil N1XTB**.



**Phil McNamara N1XTB** has a Solar powered battery system at his home QTH that consists of eight (8) 12 volt Solar Panel connected in parallel that put out about 300 watts on a sunny day, a charge controller, and eight (8) 350 amp-hour deep cycle 6 volt batteries.



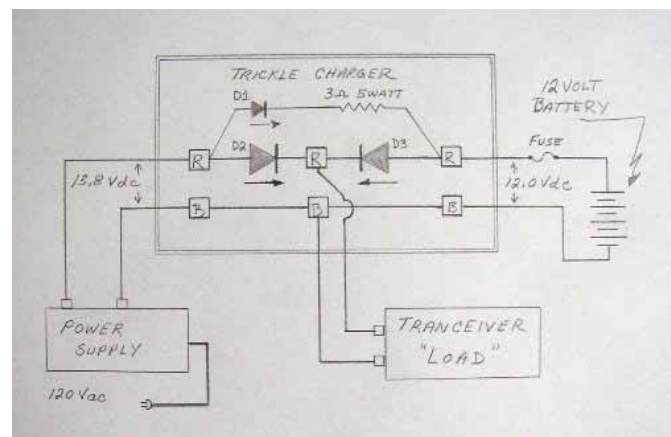
Each of the four pairs of 6 volt batteries are tied in series to give 12 volts and the four sets of 12 volt battery combinations are tied in parallel to provide a 1400 amp-hour system at 12 volts dc. The batteries are connected to a 2500 watt inverter that produces 120 volts ac (a good quality sign wave inverter is used).

From the battery room a long, heavy duty, extension cord brings the 120 volts ac inverter output power to a distribution power strip in **Phils N1XTB** radio room.

**Phil N1XTB** has many radios and computer systems up and running at his home QTH and we will get **Phil N1XTB** to fill us in on the details at a later time. Needless to say little **Phillip** is an expert at pushing buttons and talking into any mike that happens to be laying around.



**A SIMPLE BATTERY SYSTEM FOR YOUR HOME QTH:** A simple battery system you could assemble would consist of a power supply and a battery both connected to a load through an uninterrupted switching device like the PWRGate sold by West Mountain Radio.



Under normal circumstances power flows from the power supply to the load through the large diode D2 and the large diode D3 blocks any flow into the battery. At the same time the small diode D1 and the resistor provide a trickle charge to maintain the battery.

During a power failure, when the 120-volt ac line voltage to the power supply goes away, the large diode D3 would allow battery power to flow to the load while diodes D1 and D2 would block battery power from flowing into the power supply and draining the battery unnecessarily.



# WHITMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

A Non-Profit Corporation Serving the Public in Time of Emergency



Post Office Box 48  
Pine Street  
Whitman, MA 02382

Telephone: (781) 447-1655  
ARRL Club #0082  
Club Call Sign: WAINPO

## MEETING SCHEDULE

**Meetings are held on the first  
Wednesday of each month**

**The next meeting will be held at the  
Whitman Public Library which is  
located at 100 Webster Street  
in Whitman, Mass.**

### Next Meeting

**Wednesday, June 1st at 6:30 PM  
Whitman Public Library**

## CLUB OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	<b>Bruce</b>	<b>NI1X</b>
<b>V. President</b>	<b>Bill</b>	<b>N1FRE</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Roy</b>	<b>KB1CYV</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jeff</b>	<b>N1SOM</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Jim</b>	<b>W5IRW</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Steve</b>	<b>W1WSN</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>George</b>	<b>KC1FZ</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Chris</b>	<b>N1WWI</b>

---

<b>Editor</b>	<b>Bruce</b>	<b>NI1X</b>
<b>E-mail articles to:</b>	<a href="mailto:ni1x@arrl.net">ni1x@arrl.net</a>	

---

<b>Web Master</b>	<b>Jeff</b>	<b>N1ZZN</b>
-------------------	-------------	--------------

**Web Site:** <http://www.wa1npo.org>

---

Club Repeater Station:	147.225 MHz (CTSS 67 Hz)	449.875 MHz (CTSS 88.5 Hz)
------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------

*Whitman Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 48  
Whitman, Ma 02382*

